

State of Hawaii  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
Division of Forestry and Wildlife  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

June 8, 2007

Chairperson and Members  
Board of Land and Natural Resources  
State of Hawaii  
Honolulu, Hawaii

Land Board Members:

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION TO ESTABLISH VISITING HOURS OF  
5:30 AM TO 7:30 PM FOR 'AHIHI-KINA'U NATURAL AREA  
RESERVE, MAUI

This Board Submittal requests the Board to establish visiting hours of 5:30 am to 7:30 pm for 'Ahihi-Kina'u Natural Area Reserve, Maui, pursuant to HAR § 13-209-4.6.

BACKGROUND:

In 2004, two rangers were assigned to establish a Departmental presence in 'Ahihi-Kina'u Natural Area Reserve (NAR) as well as document any illegal activity that they encountered. To address safety concerns, their presence was generally limited to the daylight hours between 6:00 am and 6:00 pm, but even though they were not always present at night, their data clearly shows that illegal night activity was occurring. Attachment 1 shows the incidents that the rangers encountered from September 2004 through May 2007 recorded by hour and location. Out of all of the time periods, 6:00 am clearly had the most incidents (nearly 3 times as other time periods). This is largely due to the starting time for the rangers. Rangers typically started their shift in the reserve at this time therefore they encountered campers who had been utilizing the reserve the previous night. Camping and the habitation of vehicles were the two most common type of illegal activity occurring this time. Signs of poaching, fire, litter, and alcohol/drug use were also often found near these campers. Additionally, discussions with DOCARE officers confirmed that there were several poaching violations that occurred at night after rangers had left the reserve. Ranger's records also indicate that the most after hour incidents in the reserve occurred in the Kanahena aka "Dumps" parking lot. This is most likely due to this area having the largest, most available and secluded parking area in the reserve.

APPROACH:

In order to reduce illegal activity in 'Ahihi-Kina'u, it is recommended that visiting hours be established, from 5:30 am to 7:30 pm daily. These hours were selected to allow for

maximum daylight public use of the reserve throughout the year. As seen on Attachment 2, during the longest days of the year, the sun will rise at 5:45 am and set at 7:05 pm. The recommended visiting hours will be able to accommodate legal activities in the reserve such as surfing and snorkeling during all daylight hours. Discussions with DOCARE enforcement officers also led to the recommendation of static visiting hours rather than several different visiting hours throughout the year. In this way, visiting hours are more understandable for the public and easier to enforce. This being said, these static hours will also leave the reserve open during dark periods throughout the year. Lights and additional night safety gear will be purchased for rangers to address safety concerns associated with nocturnal activity.

The implementation of visiting hours for 'Ahihi-Kina'u will be accompanied by the installation of gates and signs in the two main parking areas within the NAR, with one gate across the entrance to the Kanahena ("Dumps") parking lot and one gate at the parking area near the entrance to the Reserve on the makai side of the road (see Attachment 3). These gates will be opened and closed by rangers at the start and end of their shifts and additional signs will be posted at the entrance to the reserve as well as throughout the reserve. Public notice will be published in local newspapers and a press release issued in coordination with the DLNR Public Information Office.

#### BUDGET:

The estimated cost associated with establishing visiting hours is \$7,000.

<u>Gate installation (2)</u>	<u>New informational signs</u>	<u>Night ranger supplies</u>
Materials - \$3,000	Material - \$3,000	Supplies - \$1,000

Another cost somewhat directly related the implementation of visiting hours concerns the continued presence of three rangers. The establishment of visiting hours via locked gates will further increase ranger responsibilities and duties but will help to protect the Reserve by decreasing the negative impacts associated with current night activity. A similar commitment by DLNR/NARS of intensive on-the-ground management will be necessary to support this type of operation in future years.

#### AUTHORITY:

Pursuant to HAR § 13-209-4.6, the Board or its authorized representative, with the approval of the Natural Area Reserves Commission, may establish a reasonable schedule of visiting hours for all or portions of a natural area reserve by the posting of appropriate signs indicating the hours during which the natural area reserve may be accessed.

#### ANALYSIS:

Illegal nighttime activities have long been a concern at 'Ahihi-Kina'u Natural Area Reserve, in part due to its remote location. A number of incidents have been documented by both the DOFAW Rangers and by DOCARE. The establishment of visiting hours (as

authorized by the recent administrative rule amendments) would enhance the ability of the Department to protect and manage the resources of this unique area. The concept of establishing visiting hours was presented to the Natural Area Reserves Commission at their May 21, 2007 meeting, who unanimously supported the proposal and recommended that the Board establish visiting hours from 5:30 am to 7:30 pm for 'Ahihi-Kina'u NAR.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board establish visiting hours of 5:30 am to 7:30 pm for 'Ahihi-Kina'u Natural Area Reserve, Maui, pursuant to HAR § 13-209-4.6.

Respectfully submitted,

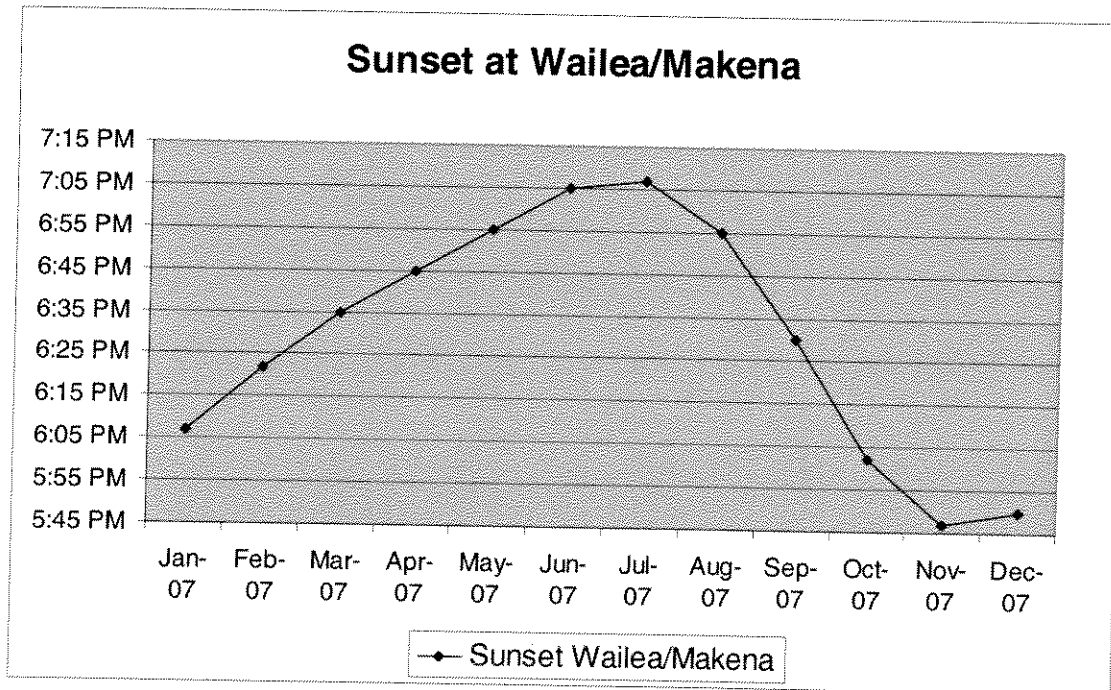
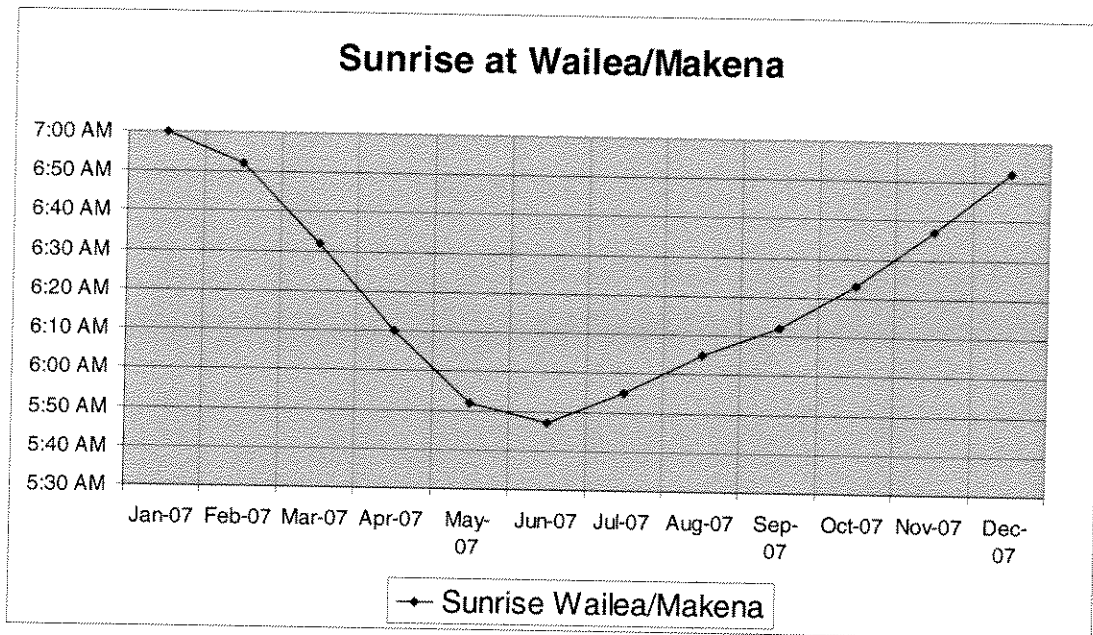


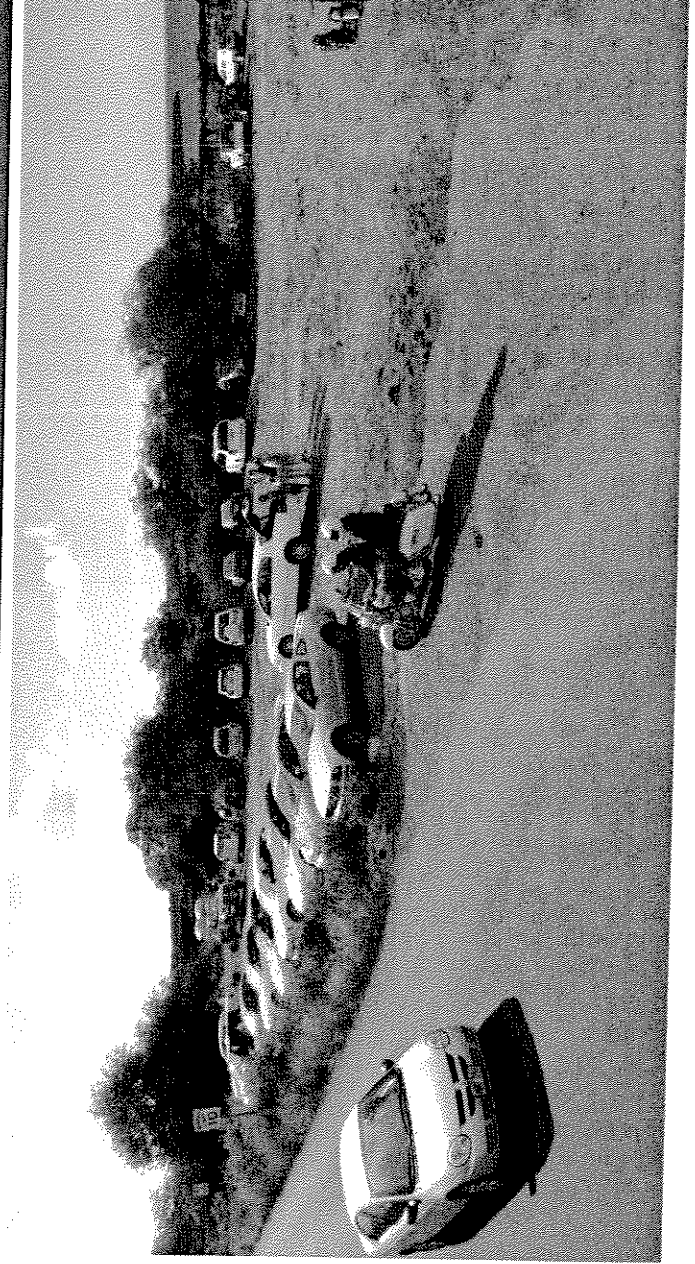
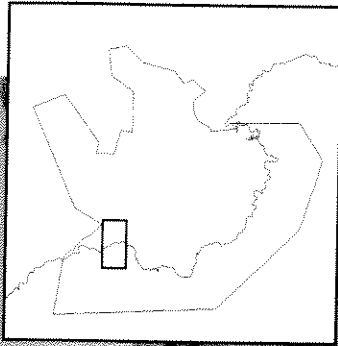
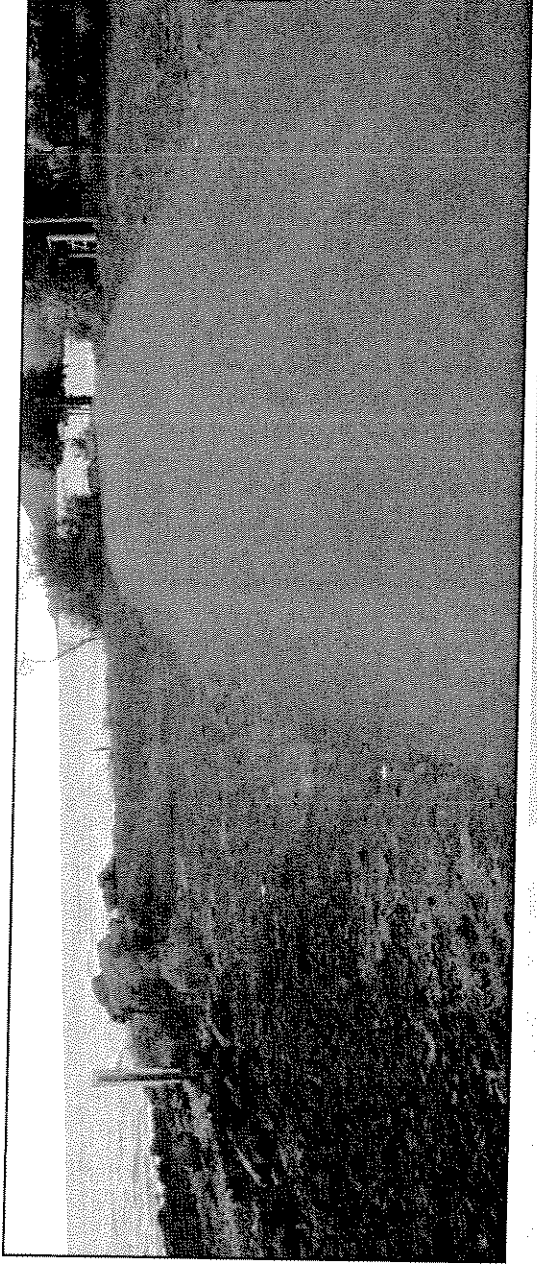
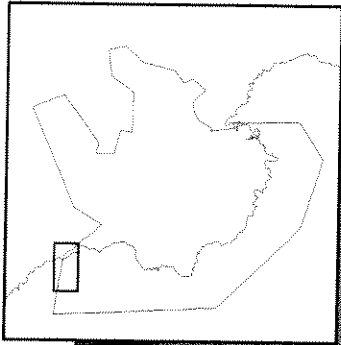
PAUL J. CONRY, Administrator  
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:

  
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ALLAN A. SMITH, Chairperson  
Board of Land and Natural Resources

Ranger's Incidents (Sept 13, 2004 - May 1, 2007)																											
Ahihi-Kinai Natural Area Reserve & Keoneoio																											
TIME	LOCATION	unknown time	Midnight	1am	2am	3am	4am	5am	6am	7am	8am	9am	10am	11am	Noon	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm	8pm	9pm	10pm	11pm	TOTAL
	NAR Entrance	2							7		2	1	1		2	1			1		3				1	1	
	Kanahena Cove	6						1	7	3	6	7	10	6	7	5	6	3	3	1	2				2		
	"Dumps" lot/bay	21							24	4	4	6	8	8	2	5	16	1	3	1	2			1	1	1	108
	Fishbowl area	2							1					4	7	4	2										20
	FB to Aquarium	3							7		2	1	1	1		1	1	2									19
	Aqu trail/bay	2								1	1	4	2	3	3	2	5		1								24
	Keoneoio	7	1	1			1		47	2	4	1	8	8	2	4	2	2	1	2	1		1				95
	TOTAL	43	1	1	0	0	1	1	93	10	19	20	30	30	23	22	32	8	9	4	8	0	2	3	2	1	363





Attachment 3. Kanahena and Entrance parking areas